

## Making connections



Roy Kummu, left, and Don Davidson, right, of trades and apprenticeship work from either side of a cement partition as they prepare workstations for electrical student-apprentices at the Detweiler Centre. (Photo By Patricia Bow)

## New vice-president emphasizes successful team-building concepts

By Kim Breese

During the 7 1/2 years he spent as senior vice-president of Toyota, Bill Easdale never had an office. In the team-oriented atmosphere at Toyota, all employees worked together on the plant floor.

That team method of production, which resulted in Toyota becoming the leading car manufacturer in North America, has become a prototype for industries and organizations adjusting to meet the challenges of the future.

Three weeks ago, the retired Easdale joined Conestoga College as a vice-president. He is now preparing to apply some of the core element team production techniques to the school of business.

The goal, he said, is to make the school remain relevant to the needs of the community and rapidly changing businesses.

"I want this school to be the best. That's my bottom line," said Easdale. "I want it to be the best business school in Ontario — for starters."

Although his mandate has yet to be formally defined, Conestoga President John Tibbits announced at a forum in A256 on May 25 that Easdale will have "overall responsibility for the direction of the school of business." Easdale is on a three-year contract of an annual salary of between \$70,000 and \$90,000, Tibbits said after the meeting.

There had been no plans to hire Easdale, but when the opportunity arose, Tibbits welcomed Conestoga's chance to benefit from the expertise and industry connections of the business leader.

Management staff at the college had known Easdale for several years through connections with Toyota. Tibbits said Easdale had been one of the people instrumental in getting the college a

\$100,000 donation from Toyota, as well as six cars for use in the auto mechanic program.

"We see Bill as a real asset, a real resource in this community," said Tibbits. "We feel we'd make a mistake to not take advantage of it. We think that Bill can make a difference here."

Easdale said Conestoga's business programs are well regarded in the business community and there are no real problems with the school of business. However, in the future, he said, he wants Conestoga to be the school that is benchmarked, or analysed for its successful techniques by other institutions.

"I want the other community colleges to come here and say, 'What is Conestoga doing that is drawing all these students — that is getting them all good jobs and high paying salaries?'"

Easdale said he is looking forward to putting his proven organizational team development and management practices — which he has also taught in lectures at more than 20 universities — to work in an academic environment.

Easdale said the key to the team concept is synergism, which is using everybody's brains to get better answers and better solutions and better problem solving.

Or, put another way, "two heads are better than one."

"There's nothing magic about it," he said. "It's just that we haven't done it before."

The new vice-president, who was also involved in team management at de Havilland for eight years, sees his role at Conestoga as facilitator of an environment in which all team members can participate and work to measure performance, solve problems, improve programs and meet future challenges.

"Nothing is perfect, and you can't stand still," he said. "You've got to continuously improve. So, if you're going to improve and get better, you have to benchmark yourself — you have to understand where you are, where you want to go, and how you are going to get there."

See Easdale, page 3



Bill Easdale, Conestoga's new vice-president, will be responsible for the overall direction of the school of business. (Photo by Kim Breese)

## "Keeping Conestoga College connected"

## This week in the news

### Conestoga students win gold

Conestoga students from technical programs won seven gold medals at the Skills Canada competition at Cops Coliseum in Hamilton.

Instructors praise Conestoga students after their impressive performance at the Olympic-style competition.

For details, see page 2

### Parking fees remain steady

Parking fees will not increase at Conestoga this year. Dave Putt, director of physical resources, planned to increase annual fees by \$2, but met with opposition from members of the parking committee.

For details, see page 2

### Business course goes international

Your Home Office/Small Business, an award-winning continuing education course developed by Conestoga College in partnership with private business, is being marketed across North America.

The text-and-video package fills a need for millions of home-based workers, Grant McGregor says.

For details, see page 3

### Counsellor Awareness Day called a success

Conestoga College's seventh annual Counsellor Awareness Day was a great success with approximately 100 counsellors from surrounding counties attending.

The chairs of each department discussed the new ideas that are circulating and the new programs that have been developed in their areas.

For details, see page 6

### Perth County MPP comes to Conestoga

Perth County MPP Karen Haslam spoke to participants of Counsellor Awareness Day about the many different hats people wear.

The purpose of the speech was to try to explain how to teach young adults to Handle All Things Successfully (HATS). Haslam brought a few hats from her collection to demonstrate the many hats that she wears.

For details, see page 6

### Mnemonic reality

Nicole Bardeau reviews the 21st century virtual reality movie *Johnny Mnemonic*.

Keanu Reeves plays a mnemonic information courier with information downloaded into his brain that could save the lives of millions of people — if he can get the information out of his brain before it explodes.

For details, see page 10

### A Big River epic

Big River, currently playing at the Drayton Theatre Festival, is a musical meant to be played in a large venue on a large stage. According to the show's review, the production does not work well in a small community theatre.

For details, see page 10

### Laser lowdown

The Doon Student Association (DSA) executive's Laser Quest night with the student executives of the universities of Guelph, Waterloo, and Wilfrid Laurier was a success. DSA president Dawn Mittelholtz says a Laser Quest tournament involving students from Conestoga and the three universities is a possibility.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

News Editor: Linda O. Nagy 748-5366

## News Briefs

### Taco Bell to ring at Doon

- The Doon cafeteria is hoping to be ready to introduce a small-scale Taco Bell in September 1995. Cafeteria manager Gerry Langis says the stand will only take up a small corner in the existing cafeteria services and the setup will involve promotional material provided by the restaurant chain. The Doon cafeteria stand will offer a smaller selection than the regular eateries, says Langis, and will maintain employees who already work for the Doon cafeteria.

### College employee conference

- Conestoga College's Employees for Excellence Conference is being held this year June 5-7. More than 50 workshops will be held during the three-day event. Most courses are offered exclusively at Doon campus. The professional development event is free to college employees and consists of a variety of workshops, including various computer courses, a harassment and discrimination workshop and even introductions to aromatherapy and handwriting analysis.

### Local fiction contest

- Attention all writers! The region's Short Story Fiction Contest 1995 is looking for submissions for this year's competition. The contest is sponsored by the Waterloo-Wellington branch of the Canadian Authors Association in collaboration with the city of Kitchener and the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. Waterloo Region must be used as the setting for all entries and submission may be a maximum of 1500 words and previously unpublished. Inquiries and requests for entry forms are to be directed to the parks and recreation department at Kitchener City Hall. Contest deadline is June 30.

### CORRECTIONS

In the May 29 issue of Spoke John Moreira's name was misspelled. Tom Reitz's name was also misspelled and his title incorrectly given. Reitz is the manager-curator of Doon Heritage Crossroads. The last line from the article entitled 'Sky's the limit' was deleted. It should have read: "The certification is not tied to any time frame because credit can be granted retroactively." Spoke regrets the errors.

## Conestoga students strike gold

By Mark Waddell

Conestoga College students won seven medals in the Skills Canada Competition held on May 1 and 2 at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton. Conestoga captured five gold and two bronze medals.

This was the fifth consecutive year students from Conestoga's technical programs participated in the Olympic-style competition. The seven medals matched Conestoga's 1992 medal performance.

Conestoga received gold performances from Ray Belanger, Eddy Gay, Patrick Neuman, Ken Wali and Henry Loughlin.

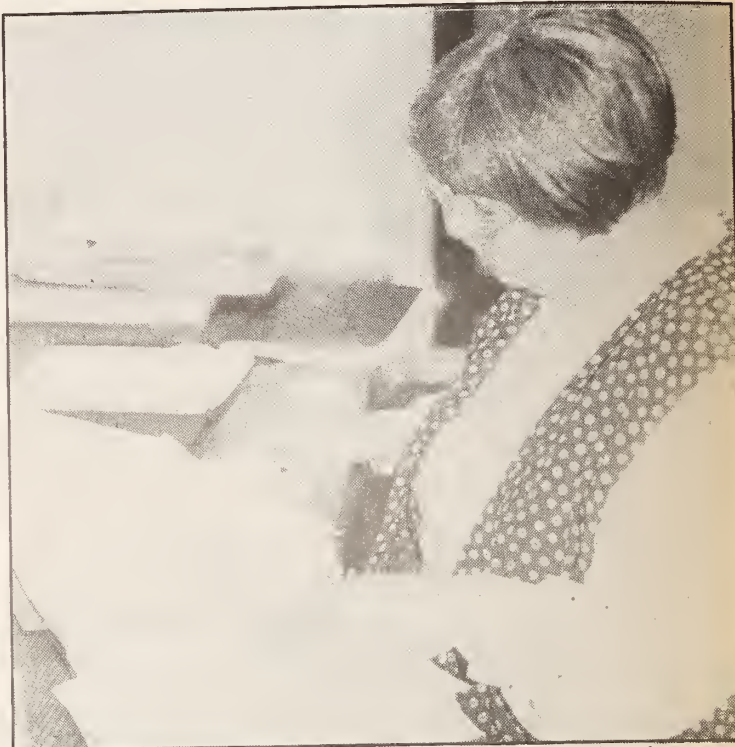
Neuman, a second-year mechanical engineering technology design and analysis student, won the computer aided design (CAD) mechanical competition. This was the second year in a row he struck gold for Conestoga at the competition.

Mitch Wawzonek, a CAD mechanical instructor at Conestoga, said Neuman has done well for Conestoga.

Belanger, a third-year construction engineering technology student, won the CAD architectural competition, while Gay, a first-year welding and engineering technician student, won gold in the welding competition.

Wali, a fifth semester electronics engineering and technology-computer systems student, won the technology event. And Loughlin, an electronics engineering technology telecommunications student, won in the electronics event.

"It certainly was a gold-medal performance," said Tom Franks, an electronics and technology instruc-



Liaison officer Gail Smyth looks over the seven-medal performance from the Skills Canada competition. (Photo by Mark Waddell)

tor, of Loughlin's performance. Franks, who taught Wali and Loughlin, also said Wali did an excellent job preparing himself for the competition.

He said Loughlin received an invitation from the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) to compete in a competition in Kentucky.

Walt Jinkerson, a second-year woodworking technician student, won a bronze medal in the cabinet-making competition. Brad Bettridge and Donna Leader, sixth-semester mechanical engineering technology robotics and

automation students, shared a bronze medal in the mechatronics competition.

"The competition was very close," said engineering instructor Brian Morris of the mechatronics competition Brad Bettridge and Donna Leader competed in. He said Bettridge and Leader have been invited to attend an international skills organization competition in Lyon, France.

"We do really well at Skills Canada competitions, even with the competition getting tougher," said Gail Smyth, Conestoga community liaison officer.

## Parking rates to hold steady

By Kim Breese

Parking fees at Conestoga College will not increase next year, even though projected expenditures are slightly higher than revenues, said Dave Putt, manager of physical resources.

Putt said he did not intend to raise the daily parking rate of \$2.25 this year, but wanted to increase the annual permit by \$2 from last year's price of \$101.74. However, he ran into opposition from members of the parking committee who noted that their wages were frozen and protested the hike.

"No one wants to pay parking — I don't want to pay parking — but they want somewhere decent to park," he said.

Putt said a common misconception is that the college is making a lot of money from parking fees, but the facts prove that is not true.

Conestoga has been charging for parking for the past 11 years. During that time, said Putt, the college collected \$3,565,000 in parking fees.

The cost of maintenance and building of new lots during the same time span, including this year's projected costs, is \$3,573,000 or \$8,800 more than what has been collected.

Scheduled upgrades for this year include \$65,000 worth of improved lighting at the Doon, Guelph and Waterloo campuses. Resurfacing in some areas will cost \$95,000.

"You start to chew up money

pretty fast," said Putt.

He said he does not think Doon will require a new parking lot this year. If and when a new lot is needed, it will be built at the east end of the campus beside Parking Lot 2, and will cost an estimated \$300,000.

Some people have suggested the college put in multi-storey parking, instead of building more lots, but that idea is not feasible, said Putt.

He said when Parking Lot 12 was built at Doon Campus, 500 new parking spots were created at a cost of \$375,000. The price per space, including asphalt, curbs, drains and lights, worked out to about \$750.

However, Putt's estimates show, "If we were to put in multi-storey, you're looking at a minimum of \$9,000 per space." That translates into about \$4.5 million for 500 spots, he said.

Putt said overall, parking fees at Conestoga have always been reasonable. For the first five years of paid parking, the annual cost remained at \$60. But, when he took over parking in 1988, new parking lots were necessary, and he was forced to raise fees about 50 per cent to cover the cost.

"Needless to say, I was not popular," said Putt. Since then, fees have risen slightly every year, until now. Conestoga's parking prices are comparable with the other local post-secondary institutions, and considerably lower than the University of Guelph, where day parking costs \$9.

# Pub Staff

## REQUIRED

The Doon Student Association requires pub staff for on-campus licenced events. Various positions include: bartenders, security, door persons, and floor walkers. Pub staff will be paid on an hourly basis; hours vary depending on pub schedule. Individuals will be trained on the SMART Serve Program.

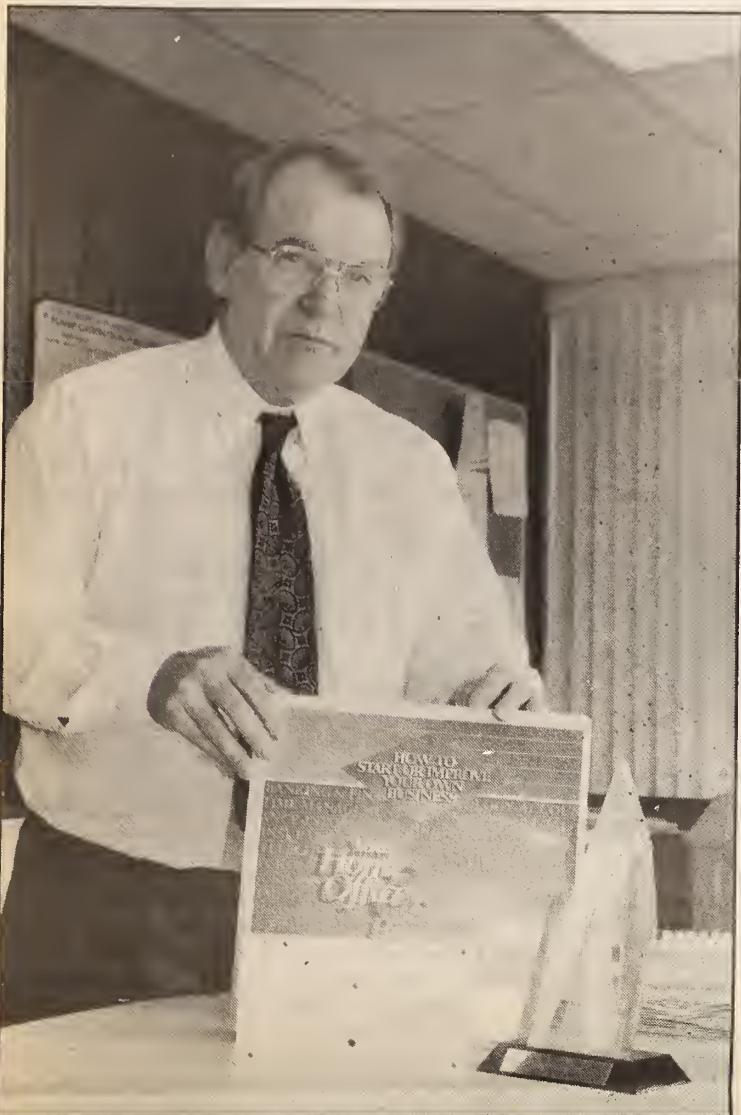
Applications available at the DSA Office located in the Main Cafe.

Application Deadline JUNE 30, 1995



## CAMPUS NEWS

# Small business course sells across Canada and abroad



Grant McGregor, dean of business, displays the video-and-text Home Office/Small Business package which won the Conny Award for Best Partnership. (Photo by Patricia Bow)

By Patricia Bow

An award-winning continuing education course developed by Conestoga College in partnership with private business is becoming an international success.

Grant McGregor, Conestoga's dean of business, said the video portion of the Home Office/Small Business course is currently airing on TVOntario. The course will soon also be available in Alberta and in the United States. Negotiations with a university in Mexico are also under way.

Closer to home, starting in July, Conestoga will offer the course through distance education, a term which includes the use of computers and videos as well as correspondence. The 400-page workbook, packaged with supplementary videotapes, will cost \$99.

Though joint ventures are not new to the college, McGregor said this partnership may be the most complex so far. Ten private businesses and two universities were involved in the development of the program under Conestoga's direction.

The course netted the college a Conny Award for Best Partnership/Collaboration. The Conny Awards, now in their second year, were set up by the Ontario Association of Community Colleges to recognize achievements in continuing education by Ontario colleges.

Planning began about 20 months ago when McGregor met Kevin Milne and Ken Slack, owners of Global Lifeskills, a Kitchener train-

ing and development firm. While Global lined up the corporate partners — Bell Canada, IBM, the Bank of Nova Scotia, CompuServe, Eldon-Rubbermaid, the Empire Financial Group, Franklin Quest Co., Gowling Strathy and Henderson, and Price Waterhouse — Conestoga managed the academic side.

Each corporate partner submitted curriculum materials which were assembled, formatted and made into a consistent package by Bo Renneckendorf, school of business faculty. Steve Findlay of the college's marketing program helped produce some of the graphics.

Wilfrid Laurier University supplied the segment of the program dealing with psychology.

Your Home Office/Small Business explores such topics as how to create a business plan for a small business, how to computerize a small business, accounting, telecommunications, time management, and the psychology, ergonomics and legal aspects of working at home.

The subject matter and format meet an increasing demand, McGregor said. Home-based workers are "probably the fastest growing segment of the workforce in North America." Estimates of numbers range from two to four million in Canada alone, and for many home-based workers, distance education is the only convenient way of learning, he said.

Now airing on TVOntario, the program will soon be reaching across provincial and international

borders. McGregor said it will be shown on Alberta's public broadcasting system and on PBS in the United States. People watching the course on PBS will be able to register at Northwood University of Midland, Mich., for distance education.

As well, McGregor said negotiations are under way with the University of the Americas in Mexico City to produce a Spanish-language version.

Northwood, a private business-oriented university, was chosen because McGregor is familiar with it and considers it "a very entrepreneurial group." Conestoga and Northwood reworked the curriculum to take into account differences between American and Canadian banking, accounting and insurance practices.

Northwood will be paying royalties to Conestoga for the use of the program, McGregor said. He added that the college has the right to sell the program to colleges, universities and libraries throughout Canada, and any copy sold brings in a royalty.

McGregor finds the success of the small business course especially pleasing because it received no development dollars from the college. It was put together through the extra efforts of college and Global staff, he said.

McGregor said he hopes this type of educational package will become an important source of revenue for Conestoga College. "The potential is there."

## Easdale says teams will decide priorities for school of business

Continued from page 1

Easdale plans to create teams to decide those priorities and target other institutions to analyse which are the successful strategies. There will also be a team to define the standard by which the success of programs and innovations will be judged.

"The key thing to all of that is measuring where you are and then measuring how much better you get," he said. "If you're not getting better, you're obsolete. It's that simple."

Easdale said variables that could be used to measure success might include attrition rates, graduate placement rates and graduate starting salaries. He said he plans to be on that team, as a participant, but not necessarily as a leader, because others at the college have more expertise in that area, from an educational perspective.

**"I want this school to be the best. That's my bottom line."**

— Bill Easdale

Other long-range plans include developing a stronger linkage between the school of business and industries to ensure the importance of programs. That will be accomplished by closer collabora-

tion with program advisory committees, Easdale said.

"In terms of the relevance of programs, they're the key. I know they're well accepted by the college and I want to improve the integration of their thinking with the faculty thinking."

Also, he said, continuing education will draw more attention because businesses are spending more now on training and education than ever before, and there will be an increased need for those kinds of programs.

The college is, as well, planning to increase the international content of programs. Foreign students will be encouraged to train at Conestoga and the curriculum reviewed to make sure all graduates have the proper training and knowledge of economic indicators necessary to work in a global business economy.

During his first 1 1/2 weeks on the job, Easdale met with four groups of faculty. "My primary evaluation is that they are darned good people and I am going to be able to work with them. I don't see any huge obstacles," he said.

He has already received volunteers for a team-building workshop he is planning to conduct in the second week of June. Easdale said while team-management is a proven success, it is not without some pitfalls and the change

might not be easy for everyone. He cautioned against over-optimism.

"People have to learn to work in that kind of environment," he said. "Not everyone's cut out for it. Some people learn very rapidly and others take a while to come around. So, there will be people around in three, four or five months saying, 'I'm not sure I really like this all that much.' But over time, it's proven itself and there is really no question this is the way to go."

Tibbitts said there is a lot of enthusiasm for Easdale's plans among staff and faculty.

**"Nothing is perfect and you can't stand still. You've got to continuously improve."**

— Bill Easdale

Business faculty member Bill Green said he is looking forward to Easdale's innovations. "It's a positive new direction that can only help us," Green said.

Easdale has been married about 40 years and has three children, two of whom have gone through the college system.

In his spare time, which he said he does not foresee a lot of in the near future, he likes to travel, sail, garden and golf.

## College readies for grant cuts

By Paul Campbell

Conestoga College's budget, passed at a board of governor's meeting May 29, poses a number of problems due to the fact there is no provincial budget, as yet, according to the college's chief financial officer.

The biggest difficulty is getting ready for cuts in grants to the college, said Kevin Mullan, vice-president of finance and administrative operations.

Cuts in transfer payments coming from the federal government have resulted in the provincial budget makers having to make cuts of their own.

"The province has got to reduce the amount that it is spending," said Mullan.

The result in any case is that college budget making has also got to change, said Mullan, because of the political changes due to the reduction in what the federal government has to give the provinces for their own budgets.

The federal government, up until its 1996-97 budget, has been providing the 10 provinces with approximately \$2.8 billion to pay for their services. The established program funding has now been cut by about \$700 million.

An even greater complication is the federal government has stopped telling provinces how to use this money, Mullan said.

Previously, the money had been earmarked for health services, public education and social services, he

said.

The decision to give funds to these three categories is now in the hands of provincial budget makers.

This means provincial community colleges cannot count on receiving the same amounts in grants they may have in the past, said Mullan. All of this uncertainty may result in decisions being made which would make post-secondary education less accessible, Mullan said.

A rise in the cost of tuition for students could put a strain on the Ontario Student Assistance Plan budget or even deter people from applying to college at all, he said.

Budget making troubles for Ontario colleges have been compounded even more with a provincial election campaign. The leaders of the various political parties have made a wide spectrum of promises and nothing will solidify until after the June 8 election.

Progressive Conservative leader Mike Harris has said he would cut \$700 million to Ontario colleges and universities.

Whatever amount of money is eventually allocated to Ontario post-secondary public education, about 40 per cent goes to community colleges. The remaining 60 per cent goes to provincial universities. The province must look to being as efficient as it can be with the money it has to spend. Mullan said Conestoga is not running a debt.

He said having a debt is not a common practice among community colleges budget makers in Ontario.



# OutSPOKEn Opinions



## "Keeping Conestoga College connected"

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Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor at the above address by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

Conestoga  
Corner



By Patti  
Harding

## College is bigger than many realize

After attending Conestoga College's seventh annual Counsellor Awareness Day, I have come to realize that not only is Conestoga a big part of my life — it is a big part of many people's lives.

Sitting in the college's amphitheatre with high school and youth counsellors from Waterloo, Wellington and Perth counties has made me realize that supplying well-trained graduates is only one way Conestoga helps local communities.

Most students that come out of Conestoga College are bright, capable able-to-work people who benefit the community that they decide to reside in.

Because of the excellent training they have received at Conestoga, the individuals better the community in a way that only certain people can.

Conestoga also helps the community by hosting a variety of specialty days, such as the Counsellor Awareness Day, to inform people about how the community college system works.

Visitor Information Program (VIP) Day helps prospective students decide whether they want to attend Conestoga College or not.

Helping someone make a well-rounded decision on what type of program or institution he or she would like to attend allows the student or adult to make a healthy choice.

Conestoga often allows other colleges to come and strut their stuff on this day so that prospective students are not bombarded with only Conestoga information.

Because of all the current construction under way, Conestoga is also providing many jobs. It is not like the workers wouldn't have jobs otherwise, but to me this is an excellent way to show that Conestoga is a school that cares.

Many different contracts have been signed by the school to have various things done to it to make Conestoga bigger and better for the future students.

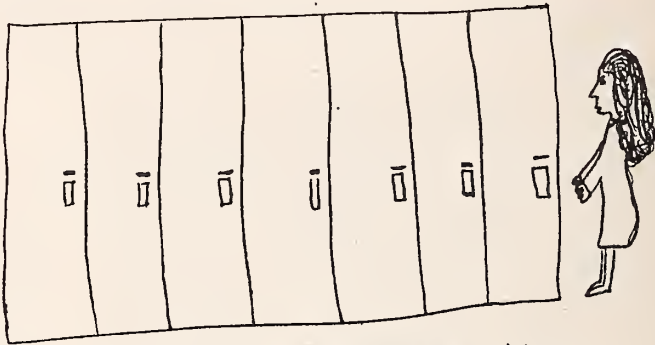
To me this is great. This will allow the school to turn out better and more equipped students to join the workforce.

And to those who go there, Conestoga is a whole world in itself.

During the years that we spend here, we eat, breathe and sleep Conestoga College. Great friendships are fostered, knowledge is gained and if nothing else, we get our butts whipped into shape by the professors.

Conestoga College is a big part of the local community. It helps Kitchener and other communities better facilitate themselves and those around them.

It is unfortunate that many people who attend the school will never realize this until they encounter it for themselves.



As if caught in a bad Stephen King  
tv movie, Janis searches for her locker  
which has been mysteriously relocated  
by the big, bad construction men.

Just A  
Thought . . .



By Anna  
C. Done

## Choosing the lesser evil

Because of the upcoming provincial election, I am facing a dilemma in conscience. I strongly believe that in countries where a free democratic vote exists, people must exercise this prerogative on behalf of the majority of the world who are denied this basic human right.

I believe that a free vote is the cornerstone of a democratic society in which representation by public support is essential.

So why am I perplexed? Having voted in every election, be it municipal, provincial or federal, since I turned 18, I am now considering not voting.

I have listened to the speeches of the party leaders and local candidates, talked to representatives of two of the parties running and read the various literature the parties have issued.

I cannot choose which candidate to vote for because I cannot see a difference in their motives.

Each party is campaigning to run the province the way it thinks is best. Of course, each party represents a different political ideology, but rather than representing an ideology or a party's dogma, shouldn't the candidates be representing the people who will vote them in?

Rather than pledging themselves to represent their electorate, the candidates have pledged their allegiance to those who fund their campaigns.

Each party in the provincial election is stating

its blueprint for change and the betterment of Ontario. I can't help but thinking that each party has already had its chance in the past, at the provincial or federal levels, and in some cases, both. So why should I trust any of the parties to represent my best interests or the best interests of the province?

How can one political party with one political ideology and one view on how things should be done represent a province with such a diverse set of problems?

How can I, as a single voice in this province, with only one vote as my weapon, compete for the ear of political parties when large, highly organized pressure groups who have large bank accounts with which to fund politicians' campaigns, are competing for that same ear?

I have contemplated spoiling my ballot as a protest. I can't help feeling that this single act of protest is as futile as voting itself.

I do believe in the principle of empowerment through positive action, but I also have too good a political memory to be taken in by slick campaigns and empty promises.

So how can I resolve this dilemma? I suppose that I will just have to bite the bullet and cast my ballot.

Perhaps I will join Tax Watch or some other public watchdog group which will hound whichever party wins into keeping at least some of its campaign promises.

Guest  
Columnist



By Ben Noseworthy  
Business administration  
student

## Shinerama blasts disease

On Saturday, Sept. 9, Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge will be invaded!

Frosh from Conestoga College, U of W and Wilfrid Laurier will be out in force, washing cars, shining shoes and polishing windows for charity in the grand finale to Orientation week.

The national Shinerama campaign unites over 65 universities and colleges from coast to coast to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes a thick glue-like mucus to coat the lungs and pancreas, inhibiting breathing and digestion. Currently, there is no cure or treatment for the disease.

Canada is the world-leader in CF research

through the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Since Shinerama started in the early '60s, the average age of survival of a Canadian with CF has increased from four years old to about 28 years old.

Remember: Saturday, Sept. 9. Mark it on your calendar now. A day to have some serious fun! Breakfast on us! Big party to follow! Be there!

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Doon Student Association or look for the Shinerama display in the big tent at registration.

Be prepared to have a blast and help a great cause.

See you there.



## TAKING SIDES

### Should there be a mandatory standard for faculty assistance to students with work terms or co-op placements?

#### Students should count on help

By Nicole Bardeau



College is designed so that students learn, hands on, how to deal with challenges and demands found in the work world. To achieve this end, some college courses include one or a series on the job work terms.

These jobs are often conducted with the understanding that the student will not be paid with money, but rather, with marketable experience.

The problem with the work term idea is the lack of assistance students can tend to receive from some department faculty in making the contacts or creating the proper resume and interview presentation.

I am not saying the faculty should locate and secure a placement for each student.

What I am saying is although students need to learn the skills of creating a resume, researching the specific fields and setting up interviews, advice or a contact name from a faculty member would help relieve some of the anxiety associated with finding a job.

It would not be unrealistic to devote a short portion of the course to identifying the right job for the right person. A student has not been out in the field and does not know exactly what is available.

Within this portion of the course, students could be coached on which skills to put forward, what she or he should include in a portfolio or resume, what type of language or method of communication to use in making the contact and how to conduct herself or himself at the interview.

The faculty has most likely been in the very same position in which the student now stands and has years of experience to fall back on.

Workterms or co-op terms are mandatory for many of the courses at Conestoga. However, if the student doesn't know how to approach the situation properly, she or he could end up in a placement where his or her skills are not being put to proper use.

As each course varies, so do the specifics of the workterms and the qualifications of the students participating in them.

However, if one of the mandates of this institution is to produce successful, productive members of society, then it should also be mandated that Conestoga students receive a high level of assistance in attaining that goal.

It doesn't do a student a lot of good to write up and send out 20 resumes if that particular industry prefers a phone call or a personal appointment first. This is the kind of information which can be obtained from the faculty.

Students should do the legwork themselves — that's part of the learning process. But without a starting line the race will get off to a shaky start.

#### campus comments

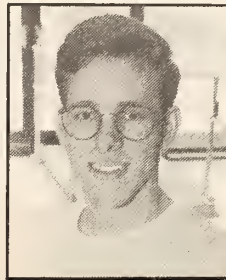


As a student you are limited. Faculty should at least give helpful suggestions.

**Kerri-ann Gelinas**  
*Social services grad*

I think help should be an option, but not mandatory.

**Greg Jacobs**  
*Mechanical engineering technology, robotics and automation*



Even if you don't pay a co-op fee, there's got to be more help.

**Jeff Issac**  
*Mechanical engineering technology, robotics and automation*

If a co-op fee is paid then definitely there should be help — otherwise, no.

**Chris Morrell**  
*Electrical technology engineering*



It's more beneficial for teachers to use their connections then to just say, "See ya, good luck."

**Scott Tucker**  
*General business grad*

We are too busy with school and have no time to be going out and looking for a placement.

**Dana Batchelor**  
*General business grad*



#### Work terms up to students



By Mark Waddell

Conestoga students who are seeking a work term should not rely on faculty to set up their placements. It's time students did the necessary legwork required to find a work term. Letting faculty decide their fate will only lead to problems.

I recently asked my program co-ordinator (who later outlined work term requirements and procedures to our class) to assist me in my quest for an unpaid work term. My co-ordinator suggested the places I should apply to and the places to avoid.

After receiving this information, I stood like a lost sheep in a big empty field, not knowing what to do. I was shocked to discover that I was on my own. Realizing I was a sheep without a shepherd, I put my portfolio, with my accompanying resume and cover letter, into an envelope for the newspaper of my choice.

It wasn't until after I sent out my application that I began to understand how this would benefit my career. I had just received my first taste of the real world.

I completed the task smoothly — a few quick questions to faculty and others in the work world and I had all the information I needed.

If I had problems at this stage, I could have approached faculty for help because I am still enrolled in the program.

If I did not complete this labor of life by myself at this stage of my career, I would probably come to faculty months after graduating crying like a baby, asking them for help when I apply for my next job.

I would hate to think I reached this humiliating point because I did not go out and search for a work term by myself. In the short term, life would be easy if faculty held me in their arms and fed me a bottle with a rubber nipple. But in the long run, this would only hinder me.

My previous years of education led me to believe the faculty were going to take my hand and lead me to the magical world of employment.

But that's not the way life works in the real world.

I also don't think students should have work terms set up by faculty because it may involve a tuition increase.

Students enrolled in the English-rhetoric and professional writing co-op program at the University of Waterloo get their placements arranged by faculty. Students pay an additional fee for faculty's assistance in finding them a placement.

Students play a game of chance with their tuition money, because getting a job is not guaranteed. Students run the risk of letting their money go to waste.

# YES

Do you have any topical questions you want straight-forward answers to? Send them to the editor or staff in Room 4B15, or call SPOKE at 748-5366.

# NO



# CONESTOGA LIFE

Lifestyles Editor: Don Ross 748-5366

## Conestoga testing site for future prison jobs

By Steve Tuckwood

Conestoga College's Doon campus was the site of written testing for those in search of positions at the new facility for federally sentenced women, scheduled to open on Homer Watson Boulevard in Kitchener in 1996.

Marie-Andre Drouin, warden for the facility, said Conestoga was chosen as a testing site by Corrections Canada because of its central location and its proximity to the facility.

The testing took place Wednesday, May 24, through Friday, May 26, with two testing sessions of two-and-a-half hours in length occurring per day in seminar room 2A56.

Drouin said it was both an aptitude and a knowledge test. Applicants were expected to answer questions on how to react to different situations they could encounter on the job.

Applicants were made aware of the hiring process through advertisements in local newspapers and through colleges and universities that offer programs connected with the field.

The application process started with each applicant submitting a form available through the Corrections Canada office to the federal government. The application was then screened by the hiring committee and the group was reduced from 915 to 512 applicants who were eligible to write the test.

Drouin said the minimum qualification for any applicant was a Grade 12 diploma, as well as some form of experience in social work or security.

She said most of the applicants had fulfilled more than the minimum requirement, whether it be a

college diploma in law and security, or a university degree in criminology. Drouin said the number of applicants holding bachelor of arts degrees was greater than the hiring committee expected, though possession of that did not guarantee a position.

"It is definitely a lengthy, drawn-out process which will not be completely finished for another year and a half," said Drouin.

She said following the written part of the process those who pass will be granted an interview. The applicants are vying for 25 positions at the facility, which will officially begin operation in April 1996.

The 25 who are hired will be put through an intensive 11-week training program at one of the facilities already functioning in Kingston, said Drouin.

Construction of the Kitchener facility is to be finished in January 1996. Employees will begin at that time to become acquainted with the facility for two months prior to the arrival of inmates.

Bob Hays, co-ordinator of Conestoga's law and security administration program, said he was unaware the testing was being done on campus.

He said the program was in no way associated with the choice of site. He said the only way he was made aware of the testing was by the number of graduates who visited him during the three days of testing.

"I'm like that guy Rodney Dangerfield. They don't tell me anything about what goes on here," Hays said.

Drouin said Conestoga's Doon campus was one of two sites chosen for the written testing, Kingston being the other.



Members of the audience on Counsellor Awareness Day May 26 display some of Perth County MPP Karen Haslam's most outrageous hats. (Photo by Patti Harding)

## Hats off

### MPP discusses symbolism of hats with counsellors

By Patti Harding

Perth County MPP and experienced hat collector Karen Haslam spoke about the many different hats people wear during the seventh annual Counsellor Awareness Day at Conestoga College.

Haslam has been a district commissioner for the Girl Guides of Canada, served as a school trustee, taught, worked in libraries and is active in her church and community.

She came to Conestoga to try to explain how to help young people Handle All Things Successfully (HATS).

Haslam began by explaining the origin of hats, and discussed the types and significances of hats in

different time periods. She offered information tidbits, including the fact that some hats long ago carried religious or magical symbolism. Haslam also suggested the men's top hats of the 1800s were a symbol of male dominance over women.

Towards the end of her talk, Haslam brought out some of her own prize hats. These included two hats from Paris, a hat from 1906 and a hat from the 1930s. "I'm known as the hat lady at church," she said as she displayed some of her more outrageous head gear.

She also explained how each person wears several figurative hats every day. You can wear the mother's hat, which also encom-

passes the taxi driver's hat, coach's hat, brownie leader's hat or PTA member's hat, or could instead simply wear the painter's hat, the artist's hat or the feminist's hat, she said.

Haslam chose people from the audience to model the hats that she brought and gave them titles such as the mother's hat, the sister's hat and the Sunday school teacher's hat, so the audience would understand how many hats she and everyone can and do wear every day.

Haslam created a great amount of good cheer in a room full of strangers by closing with, "You are all wonderful people and I wish you success no matter what hat you wear."

## 100 area counsellors attend awareness day at Conestoga's Doon campus

By Patti Harding

Conestoga College's seventh annual Counsellor Awareness Day attracted approximately 100 counsellors from Perth, Wellington and Waterloo counties and other outside organizations May 26.

The day started off with a welcome from Conestoga College president John Tibbitts and an explanation of why Doon campus is undergoing changes.

After a speech on the many hats people wear by Perth MPP Karen Haslam, the chairs of each of the college's departments briefed the counsellors on what is new within Conestoga.

Conestoga College's school of business will have two new programs as of September. The small business development program, which was a one-year certificate program, teaches people how to start their own business, said Edith Torbay, chair of business. It has been rewritten to include 16 weeks of class sessions of concentrated activity and a four-week

time period where the student is allowed to work on plans for their specific business.

Torbay cautioned the counsellors going back to their high schools, "If they (students) don't have a strong grasp of reality, then this program is not for them. They should have a burning desire to do it," she said.

The other new program, the home office program, which was created in conjunction with 10 partners, two of them being IBM and Mutual Life, is a 16-week course which teaches people how to manage a home office. Torbay said this program is for people who work for large companies but are expected to work out of a home office.

The Waterloo campus of Conestoga, known for the early childhood education program, will no longer be housing the program, said program chair Titia Taylor. She said the program could not be successful from such a distance.

Trades and apprenticeship chair Hans Zawada announced that there were a number of things

changing in his area, including a redevelopment of the curriculum in all of the trades and apprenticeship programs. He said there are also two new programs within the school — the electrical techniques program and the building apprenticeship program.

### A dental office administration program will be available at Waterloo campus.

There are a few programs within Conestoga College which help the mature adult returning to school or out-of-work youth. Three of them are the Futures program, adult retraining and Focus, said Bob McIver, chair of access and preparatory studies. Futures is a program that helps youths out of school and out of work to find work. The program is co-located with Lutherwood and Cambridge Youth Services.

Adult retraining is based on annual funding and helps prepare adults to enter into the college sys-

tem. About 100 people have completed this course successfully, and have gone into certificate and diploma programs, said McIver. Focus is a program that helps mothers on social assistance to prepare themselves to enter the college system.

Mike McClements, chair of engineering and technology, who has worked and hired in the field, told listeners about the numerous gold medals the students of Conestoga College have won and about the program's above-average job placement. "Eighty-six per cent of the 1993-94 graduates found jobs," he said.

Law and security program chair Joe Martin said the program has changed drastically in the last 12 years. The program prepares people to be insurance officers, private investigators, security guards and customs people.

Martin told the counsellors attending that general level students can succeed in this program, but they must have superb interpersonal skills. There are seven courses the students must take that

deal with interpersonal skills alone.

To be accepted to the nursing program in the health sciences department, you must not have been convicted of a criminal offence, narcotics offence or a food and drug act offence. You also must not have any physical or mental problems that would make it undesirable for you to practise.

The health sciences section of the college encompasses nursing, practical nursing, ambulance attendant and health-care aide, said Jean Morris, chair of health sciences. She also discussed the new dental office administration program which will be available at the Waterloo campus but the program is through Niagara College.

Doug Perkins introduced the athletic department by saying he considers Conestoga's athletic facilities the best in the country. Conestoga has four intercollegiate programs: women's softball, men's and women's soccer and men's hockey. "It is important to promote athletics as well as academics," he said.



# CONESTOGA LIFE

## Employee conference comes to Conestoga

By Nancy Usjak

Where can a Conestoga employee learn aromatherapy, handwriting analysis and origami?

The 1995 Employee for Excellence in Education conference, held at Doon campus June 5, 6 and 7, will feature workshops on these topics and many more.

"We've been working full tilt since the beginning of January," said Jane MacDonald of human resources, chair of the committee organizing the conference.

She and Janet Zilio, also an organizer, have had less time to prepare for the annual conference than in other years — usually, conference preparations begin in September.

"This conference gives direction to the professional development needs of all college employees," MacDonald said.

"The conference really is a team effort because it's planned and delivered by employees."

MacDonald said 67 employees from all levels including faculty, administration and support staff will be presenting workshops.

About 400 employees will participate out of about 700.

"The conference has been growing every year. There are more workshops and more people attending," she said.

Many of the more than 50 workshops have huge waiting lists, and most workshops are full.

One of the more colorful workshops being offered is Introduction to Handwriting Analysis with facilitator Bo Kenneckendorf, a 90-minute workshop introducing participants to the clues in handwriting that make people "tick".

Introduction to Aromatherapy with facilitator Madelaine Poynter is a two-hour workshop offering information on how to improve short-term memory, reduce stress and boost the immune system with the use of oils.

A creative workshop entitled Origami — Creative Paper Folding will also be offered. The one-hour workshop taught by Keith Stevenson will be a hands-on experience using the paper square to create birds and animals.

Employees will travel through Africa and the Arctic in a series of exotic nooner workshops.

Facilitator Pat Trudeau will present the New South Africa, a one-hour workshop that takes employees through the political, economic and educational changes of post-apartheid South Africa.

Another African experience will be presented by Jean Weller entitled African Safari.

The one-hour workshop will be a



Janet Zilio (left), and Jane MacDonald of human resources, discuss the 1995 Employees for Excellence in Education Conference, held June 5, 6 and 7. The conference will conclude with a barbecue dinner and an address from college president, John Tibbits. (Photo by Nancy Usjak)

presentation of wildlife and scenery based on a visit to Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

Facilitator Ted Goddard will share slides from several Arctic canoe trips in the one-hour workshop, Canoeing Above 60 Degrees... Border of Northwest Territories.

For Women and by Women is a three-hour workshop, back by popular demand, offering in-depth information on menopause and

breast cancer.

Facilitator Anne Quinn Wallace, a nurse and midwife, and Ann Hopkins, a nurse and mother, both work in health sciences in the registered nurse diploma program.

MacDonald said many of the workshops involve technology.

Among the technology-based workshops offered are The E-Mail Information Highway, a three-hour workshop with facilitator Dave

Jackson, which looks at the basic and advanced features of e-mail.

Two workshops on the Internet will also be offered. Introduction to Internet, facilitated by Steve Finley, will help employees learn how to use basic Gopher and e-mail utilities, and Intermediate Internet, facilitated by Tim Williams.

The conference will end June 7 with a barbecue and a speech by college president John Tibbits.

## Education conference takes time to plan

By Nancy Usjak

Janet Zilio of human resources has worked day and night organizing the 1995 annual Employees for Excellence in Education conference being held June 5, 6 and 7 at Doon campus.

"It takes up all my time," she said. "A lot of things are rushed because of the time element."

The conference, which is designed to provide direction to the professional development of Conestoga employees, will involve about 400 employees and will fea-

ture over 50 workshops.

Zilio said the conference committee met in January. She said the first step in organizing the monolithic event was obtaining facilitators to run the workshops.

"We send out surveys to everyone," she said. "People can offer to do a workshop or suggest a topic."

The second step, she said, was scheduling and booking rooms on campus for the workshops.

The third step was to set up registration packages sent out to full-time employees.

The workshops are offered on a

first-come, first-serve basis. The majority of the workshops were full within the first five hours.

"We've had a very good response," she said. "Some of the workshops have up to 50 people on waiting lists." A workshop can run up to three years depending on employee interest.

"We have to make sure everything runs smoothly," said Zilio. "We get a lot of cancellations, so I have to find the next person on the waiting list." A lot of paper work is involved, as well as co-ordination with the various facilitators.

## Robotics student wins award in close race

By Don Ross

Lewis Scott, third-year robotics student, won this year's Mitutoya award for academic excellence in the dimensional metrology and co-ordinate measuring machine course.

The award was Scott's second since enrolling in the program. He also won the proficiency award in his first year, for academic excellence by a first-year robotics student.

The winner of the Mitutoya award claims a prize donated by the Mitutoya Company consisting of a micrometer, a Vernier caliper, and a dial indicator.

The award is for the student who achieves the highest grade in this particular course, rather than the entire program, said Dave McIntosh, mechanical engineering instructor and teacher of the dimensional metrology course.

McIntosh said students work with precision measuring instruments

and equipment to check a workpiece's entire range of measurable characteristics. As well, students cover the operation, maintenance and programming of a co-ordinate machine manufactured by Mitutoya.

The dimensional metrology course is taken by students in other mechanical engineering programs as well, not just robotics, McIntosh said. "This is an easy award to determine a winner as it is not based on subjective judging," said McIntosh. "It is based solely on the person with the highest mark. This year there was a difference of 7/10 of a per cent between the first- and second-place finishers."

There are not many companies that award a prize for achievement in one course, he said.

Mitutoya is one of the foremost producers of measuring equipment in the world, so it is a lucrative award.

Ordinarily a representative from the company presents the award,

but this year McIntosh made the presentation himself on April 28.

"Quite often the winner of this award is someone who has a talent for dimensional metrology and is not as capable in other areas, but Lewis is excellent in all of his courses. He seems to have the Midas touch," McIntosh said.

Scott said Mitutoya supplies the co-ordinate measuring machine, and the students write a program on the measuring of a specific part. Writing a program on the measuring of an odd-shaped part enables you to apply the program to this part rather than going through the entire measuring procedure every time the part is encountered, he said.

"Myself and another person in the program had a running joke throughout the course. He said he was going to win the award but lost interest towards the end," Scott said. "Winning an award was not anything I planned. I just tried to put in my best effort."



Roger Lokar basks in the glow of a spotlight as he completes brand new walls. His work will turn the old business wing into the new offices for student services. (Photo By Anna Done)



# CONESTOGA LIFE

Lifestyles Editor: Don Ross 748-5366

## Conestoga buys 12 new motorcycles for course

By Paul Campbell

Conestoga College's motorcycle training course has purchased 12 new motorcycles. The bikes are now being used for the program's summer and fall training period.

The motorcycles were purchased from Yamaha to replace a set of 24 Honda motorcycles, said Dave Stewart, chair of managerial and professional programs.

Honda was donating the bikes to the continuing education program for the past 25 years, Stewart said. The college was allowed use of the motorcycles as long as it paid the maintenance costs.

In the 1995-96 school budget, presented by Kevin Mullan, vice-president of finance and administrative operations, at the president's forum two weeks ago, \$60,000 was set aside to make the purchase. Stewart said, however, that the bikes have cost only an estimated \$51,000 after taxes, because of the number of people applying to the course each year.

He said the program can sustain the cost of the new bikes on its own, without drawing upon college

funds. Tuition for the program was raised \$39 to make up for the cost of the new bikes.

Stewart said Honda and other big manufacturers simply decided to change their commitment to the program. The decision to buy the bikes outright was the cheapest way to go after that, he said.

Honda has given the school a grace period while it phases out their old bikes. The school still has 12 motorcycles which will be returned to Honda next year. Stewart said the program will be buying 12 more Yamahas next year.

The new motorcycles are small and easy to handle, Stewart said, and there is no reason for the school to buy more powerful bikes.

The bikes are six XT225Cs, two TW200Cs and four DT200RGs. Stewart said all the bikes are dirt bike style. Stewart said all of the students who have used the bikes so far have said they are a good introductory bike.

About 400 people pass through the program each year. Already more than 172 students, each of whom must pay a fee of \$284, have taken the course this year.

Applicants to the motorcycle driver training course must have a valid M1 licence. Topics covered in the training course are: balancing and braking; cold starting; stopping; clutch operation; correct gear changing; signalling; shoulder check; slow riding; pattern riding; emergency braking; counter steering; traffic behaviour; and survival in hazardous situations. The course takes one weekend to complete.

Those who go through the course are trained in classroom setting and on the motorcycles themselves. The trainers introduce them to a series of situations and drill them on how to handle them. Most are simple steering and gear shifting exercises but the students are expected to learn collision avoidance and other emergency procedures.

Stewart said students need to be able to pass a test given at the end of the weekend course. Whether or not the student passes this test is what decides if the student will receive his or her motorcycle licence, he said. Passing means being allowed to operate a motorcycle on the streets by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.



Students from the motorcycle training course line up for a practice run. Conestoga purchased 12 new motorcycles for the course and will purchase 12 more next year. (Photo by Paul Campbell)

### Enjoying the sun



Groundskeeper Steve Hoy fills dirt in and around the new trees which were planted outside the main cafeteria. Hoy seemed to be enjoying the sun even as he slung the shovels of dirt.

(Photo by Nicole Bardeau)

## New program analyses job seekers

By Jose Compta

With an attendance of more than 25 people, an information session for the career development practitioner program was held at Guelph campus on May 25 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Sharon Kalbfleisch, dean of the school of access and preparatory studies, said the course will start in September at Waterloo campus and will be offered as a full-time program. But because of considerable demand for part-time studies, the college is looking into offering evening courses as well.

Kalbfleisch said the philosophy of the college is to get as many students to finish the courses as start them.

She said the faculty has a strong commitment to this program and that the college also expects a strong commitment from the students.

Rob Straby, a program teacher, said the career development practitioner program will enable the graduates to guide their clients in their job searches by analysing the

potential of the job seeker and directing it to the proper job opportunity.

Straby said the program is very important at a time when the labor markets are shifting rapidly and it is difficult to find the right jobs.

The 32-week post-degree, post-diploma program is designed to enhance the knowledge, skill and values of a wide range of individuals who are in some form of career development work or volunteer work in professional settings, said Straby.

He added that career development practitioners who are self-employed, or working in community-based agencies, multicultural settings, schools, post-secondary and adult learning institutions, labor adjustments contexts, human resources departments and employment-related services in all branches of government may benefit from this program.

Krista Van Daele, a teacher at the college, said skills acquired in the program may offer career mobility to participants who wish to serve a broader variety of client groups, at-

tain more in-depth competencies in selected areas of specialization or to assume more proactive management skills, strategies, and choices in their current professional setting.

The competencies of group facilitation and program planning are added to the traditional foundation skills of testing and assessment tools, labor market dynamics, career counselling techniques and individual counselling skills, said Straby.

The program's theoretical and hands-on project components will help the participants with the promotion of lifelong learning and career development processes, familiarize the students with a diverse range of client groups and organizations and give them a perspective of role flexibility, respect for others and self-directedness in order to assist others in their growth.

The program will also teach a willingness to engage in a variety of learning strategies and to commit to the different theories basic in this rapidly changing field of studies, Straby added.

## Financial aid issues deferred for future discussion

By Anna C. Done

Because of the upcoming provincial election in June, many financial aid issues have been deferred for future discussion, says Carol Walsh, Conestoga's financial aid administrator.

Walsh recently attended a three-day conference of the Ontario Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA), held at the University of Ottawa from May 17-19.

Walsh said because of the likely change in administration at Queen's Park, issues such as possible tuition increases were not

discussed. "No one was making any waves or promises," Walsh said.

The conference revealed the provincial and federal governments were not able to agree on the 1996-97 agenda because of conflicting views regarding expected parental contribution and needs assessment for student loan eligibility, Walsh said.

The existing loan forgiveness program, in which students are only responsible for a maximum debt load of \$3,000 for each term, based on a two-term year, will still be in effect in the 1996-97 school year, Walsh said. But this program

is not guaranteed to continue beyond this point. "It just depends on who wins the election, and what they decide to do."

Walsh said one program guaranteed to continue, whether other changes are made to the current system or not, is the 18-month interest-relief program.

Under this existing program, Walsh said, students are granted up to 18 months after graduation in which they can defer their student loan repayments. "These deferrals are granted in six-month intervals," she said. "The program is designed for students who have a period of unemployment follow-

ing graduation."

The Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan (ICLR), a much-debated topic during the national day of student action on Jan. 25, was not discussed at the conference.

"Many people seemed surprised that it wasn't discussed," Walsh said. "The Liberals and the Conservatives have backed the ICLR plan, so it seems likely that it will be implemented at some time in the future. We just don't know when."

Walsh said, when implemented, the ICLR plan will be good for students. "It's completely geared

to the student's income," she said, making student loan repayment more manageable.

The speculated 103 per cent tuition increase, due to cuts in transfer payments to the province, proposed by the federal government last year, is not going to be introduced, Walsh said. "High increases were actively rejected by students," she said. "Tuition will increase in September, but by 10 per cent."

Walsh said after the provincial election, the future of post-secondary education funding will be clearer. "It's all kind of up in the air right now."



# CONESTOGA LIFE

## Agreement up in the air

# Banks asked to share loan risks

By Anna C. Done

The clock is running out on banks to decide whether or not to accept a new agreement with the federal government to share the financial risks of student loans, says Carol Walsh, Conestoga's financial aid administrator.

Under the new risk-share arrangement, banks which choose not to share the default risk of student loans with the federal government will not be eligible to negotiate Canada Student Loans, said Walsh.

Banks were approached last year by Finance Minister Paul Martin's office and told that, under the new agreement, if the banks did not opt into the agreement, they would no longer be able to participate as a lender in the various government student loan programs.

"Students who have existing loans with non-participating banks

will have to transfer their loans to an authorized bank well before September," Walsh said. "We will be sending out a letter to each student once we know exactly which banks will still be eligible to negotiate government student loans."

Walsh said that with the June 2 deadline fast approaching, only two banks, the CIBC and Royal Bank, have opted into the program.

Richard Jackson, manager of policy and communications for the Ontario Student Assistance Program, which administers both the federal and provincial student loans, said that the new deal will be beneficial to the students, the banks and the federal government.

Under the current plan, he said, the provincial and federal governments become responsible for the full amount of the student loan if the bank is either unable to locate a student who is supposed to start

making payments, or if a student defaults on the loan payments. The bank must first prove to the federal government that there was a real effort to collect the money, he said, usually with two registered letters, or with the credit industry's standard 30-day, 60-day and 90-day warnings.

Jackson said that the new plan includes a risk premium of five per cent to be paid to the banks so that there is more incentive for the bank to hold onto the loans. "The government is going to save a lot of money by making the banks shoulder more of the risk of the loan defaults," he said. "The federal government is planning on investing part of the savings back into the Canada Student Loan Program, and using the rest toward lowering the deficit."

The advantage for the students, Jackson said, is that they are going

to have more choice in how the loan is negotiated. At the moment, he said, the bank sets the monthly rate, based on the amount of the loan and the current fixed interest rate over a maximum of nine years. "Students will have the option of paying a fixed interest rate of the prime rate, which is set by the Bank of Canada, plus two per cent, or a fluctuating rate of four per cent above prime."

Jackson also said students could have more flexibility in their monthly payments. "Since the banks will have more incentive to hold onto the loans, then if a student can only manage reduced payments, the bank may decide to allow the student to make smaller payments for a period, instead of handing the loan over to the government for collection."

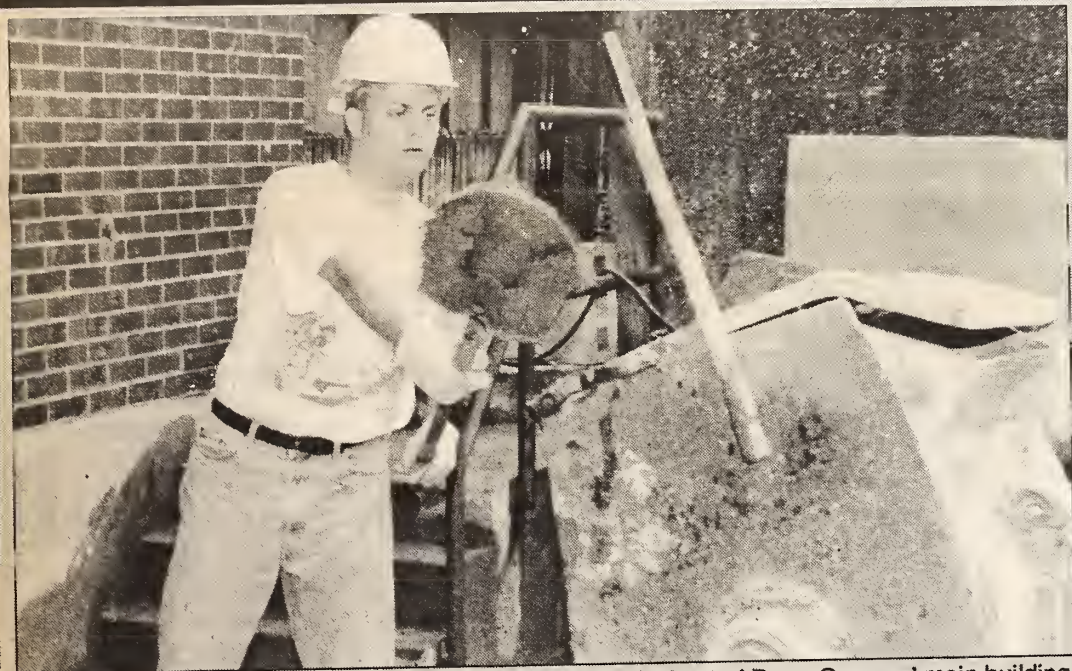
"It is going to be somewhat cumbersome at first for students who have to transfer their student loans

to a participating bank," he said. "Although the student really only has to transfer the Canada Student Loan portion of their student loans, the banks and the OSAP office are expecting the students will choose to transfer all of their loans, for convenience."

Jackson said while the federal government is entering into this agreement, the provincial government is debating whether or not to follow the Canada Student Loans' plan. He said with the upcoming election, the idea has been placed on hold. "This plan would benefit the provincial government too, but it's not a decision to propose without the blessing of the next provincial finance minister. is going to be.

"There are going to be high-level winners and losers in this plan, but overall it is a very positive initiative," he said.

## Dishin' the dirt



Construction worker Kevin Ottman fills a cement mixer in front of Doon Campus' main building in May. Work on the construction projects are progressing well. (Photo by Pete Smith)

## Student group involved in election

By Paul Campbell

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA), which represents over 100,000 students provincially, has launched a comprehensive campaign to bring issues surrounding post-secondary education in Ontario to the forefront of the provincial platform.

"The economic prosperity of our province is directly linked to the investments we make in higher education," said Jane Pak, president of the Waterloo Federation of Students.

Presently the provincial government has no budget. New Democrat budget makers declined drawing one up before the election began.

This leaves college budget makers, like Conestoga's Kevin Mullan, vice president of finance and administrative operation, in a lurch. Until the new provincial government decides where it wants to send the decreased

amounts of money sent to it from the federal government, Mullan said, colleges and universities cannot plan well.

OUSA's campaign focuses on the correlation between post-secondary education and the fertile, dynamic society it inevitably spawns, said Alexander LeRoy of Waterloo University's student government.

"Ontario needs students who can compete in an increasingly complex and demanding world," said David Blair, president of the Association of Part-time Students at the University of Toronto.

OUSA has brought its message to every candidate, issuing an all-candidate survey which asks questions regarding their positions on student aid, funding, accountability and employment.

"Without candidate campaign, OUSA has challenged those who seek office to address institutional concerns as provincial concerns," said Blair.

## DSA does battle in Laser Quest

By Nancy Usjak

Her code name was Laser Queen and she conquered her opponents in the darkness of Laser Quest.

Doon Student Association (DSA) president Dawn Mittelholtz played Laser Quest with the DSA executive and the student executives from the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University on May 25 in hopes of forging better ties.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "We got to meet other student executives and they found the Laser Quest night worthwhile as well. We hope to continue it."

The group played two games. Mittelholtz's team won both times.

Laser Quest, located in the King Value Centre on Charles and Water streets in Kitchener, is a

survival game mixing laser and computer technology. A marshal briefs players before the game on how to play. Players receive a vest equipped with flashing lights and a laser.

The game's objective is to score the most points by zapping the illuminated targets on the opponent's vest with the laser.

Mittelholtz said the group socialized before they played.

She said, as a result of the Laser Quest night, a Laser Quest tournament package will be advertised at the college and universities.

She said there may be a Laser Quest tournament involving students from Conestoga and the three universities in the future. "It will be similar to a bowling league," she said.

"It's a good night out and it's a lot of fun," she said. "You come out on a good adrenalin high."

## Crossed wires



John Charlton, a third-year electronics engineering student, works for Physical Resources running the wiring for the new student lounge this summer. (Photo By Nancy Usjak)



# Mnemonic is totally bogus

By Nicole Bardeau

The year is 2010 and information is the most valuable commodity on the planet. Only a few hold the power because only a few control the flow of information. The rest are literally dying from the overload of information.

This is the world as director Robert Longo sees it in his latest production, *Johnny Mnemonic*.

Longo takes his audience into a high-tech battle of information between the men who rule the latest technology and the Low Techs who are fighting to smuggle as much as they can to the rest of the world.

Keanu Reeves plays 21st-century mnemonic courier, Johnny, on the run with stolen data that's been downloaded to his brain. The priceless information he has encoded in his cranium could save thousands of lives.

Johnny has a big problem. After having most of his long-term memory removed, the silicone

## movie review



*Johnny Mnemonic*

Director: Robert Longo

chip installed inside his brain has been designed to hold a certain amount of data — Reeves takes on twice the amount and has 24 hours to download before his head explodes.

Fortunately, Johnny runs into Jane (Dina Meyer), a 21st-century bodyguard. Meyer hooks him up with Jabone (Ice-T), the leader of the Low Techs and the only one left who can download Johnny before he busts a brain.

Although the plot seems a bit thin, Longo and producer William Gibson more than make it up to their audience, taking them inside Johnny's brain, letting them surf the net. For much of the movie, the audience sees in virtual reality. The computer simulations and graphics are amazing. This is the

type of computer experience which needs to be witnessed, not explained.

Perhaps the most frightening part of *Johnny Mnemonic* is the reality among the virtual reality — the corruptive power of information. A world where technology is all that is holding the planet together while systematically taking it apart. A world where the "free cities" are reminiscent of scenes from *The Terminator* or the dark side of *Batman's Gotham City*.

Reeves plays his part as per usual, letting the story and visual effects carry him.

*Johnny Mnemonic* is not action or sci-fi. It's a hard look at the potential of human technological advancement and the natural desire for more information.

## Live wire



Campus electrician Mark Brohman and electronics engineering student John Charlton install the wiring for the relocated vending machines. The machines are being moved to the hallway near door 5 at Doon campus. (Photo by Don Ross)

# 1995 Drayton Festival Up the Big River without a paddle

## theatre review



*Big River*

Director: Alex Mustakas

By Leanne Moses

*Big River* is a musical of epic proportions which does not lend itself easily to a small stage.

Though director Alex Mustakas does a credible job of adapting it to Drayton's small stage, the performance doesn't have the impact it would in a larger venue.

Although the production is competent, it lacks the usual enthusiasm characteristic of community theatre.

Based on Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Big River* is a story about a young boy's journey down the Mississippi River with a runaway slave.

Like the mighty river, Twain's classic wit is a powerful source of humorous situations, larger-than-life characters and fascinating communities.

Teamed with Roger Miller's score, which includes Southern gospel, country and lively fiddle tunes, the show has enormous potential.

Unfortunately, the production was characterized by uninspired performances by some of the professional leads.

Cameron MacDuffee as *Huckleberry Finn* and David Aron Damane as *Jim*, fail to step into their roles convincingly.

MacDuffee is supposed to be a 14-year-old boy subject to exhilaration and despondency, yet his performance is monotone.

Damane, who with his powerful body could be a towering presence on the stage, all but sleepwalks through his role.

The first duet between Damane and MacDuffee, *Muddy Water*, was as flat as their acting.

Damane and MacDuffee did redeem themselves somewhat with a powerful duet of *River in the*

Rain.

Reid Spencer as *Pap Finn* failed to capture the character of the drunken scoundrel. His accent was a little too genteel, and his solo, *Guv'ment*, potentially one of the funniest scenes in the play, was dry.

There were, of course, some notable exceptions.

***The change at Drayton from reliance on amateur talent to the use of more professional talent has not improved the calibre of the acting.***

Robert Creighton stood out for his enthusiastic and animated performance as *Tom Sawyer*. His spirited rendition of *Hand for the Hog*, a snappy number applauding the virtues of swine, was one of the show's highlights.

Likewise, the classically trained Helen Beavis as *Widow Douglas* and as *Sally Phelps*, lent mastery and professionalism to the show.

Beavis was one of the few professionals in the show who garnered any enthusiasm for her role.

*Big River* employs many professional actors instead of relying on an amateur cast.

The lack of enthusiasm by many of the professionals for the small venue was evident.

The strength of Drayton's productions are small shows with dedicated, eager support.

*Big River* is a big musical that needs large scale enthusiasm, not big names.

*Big River* is playing at Drayton's Festival Theatre until June 24.

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## Entertainment

# New sequel delivers action with a vengeance

By Anna C. Done

The first two films in the *Die Hard* series were fast-paced, adrenalin-pumping, stunt-packed, in-your-face films which delivered at least eight bucks worth of entertainment.

The latest in the series, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, is everything the first two were and more. The *Die Hard* movies are one of the few sequel series in which each part stands well by itself.

Part of the reason for the success of the *Die Hard* films seems to be that, unlike Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jean Claude VanDamme et al, Bruce Willis is secure enough in his role of Detective John McClane to

share the spotlight equally with other fine talent.

In *Die Hard with a Vengeance* Willis trades verbal jabs with co-good-guy Samuel L. Jackson, still high off his well-deserved Pulp Fiction acclaim. Jackson's outstanding portrayal of Zeus, the Good Samaritan who saves McClane's butt on more than one occasion, is the ingredient that elevates the film from mindless action-adventure flick status, to a film no-one should be ashamed they went to, or enjoyed.

Willis also spars, both proverbially and physically, with Jeremy Irons, whose portrayal of the neurotically-nasty sociopath, Simon, is both convincing and enter-

### movie review



**Die Hard with a Vengeance**  
Starring: Bruce Willis

taining.

Although Irons may become typecast as playing 'baddies', even being the voice-over for the evil character Scar in the *Lion King*, it is a type he plays extremely well. Evidently, Hollywood producers equate upper-class, British accents with deep personality flaws.

The action sequences in the film have been edited using rapid cuts between shots to get the audience's blood pumping.

But what sets this film apart from other action flicks — superb acting aside — is the flawless editing of the sequences. Editing is an oft-overlooked skill in filmmaking, possibly because when truly inspired, it melds perfectly with the narrative. In this film, it does just that.

Another aspect of the film which will probably go unnoticed, but is worth mentioning, is the fine cinematography. Set in New York

City, the movie captures the essence of the city, from wide-angle shots of the skyline, the Brooklyn Bridge and the twin peaks of the World Trade Centre, to tight shots of a shop-keeper sweeping the front of his vegetable store in Little Italy, and people sunning themselves of the front steps of houses in Harlem. There is no need to spell out the location; the camera captures it all.

While perhaps not a film for cinematic purists, unlike many so-called 'good' films (*Circle of Friends* for example), *Die Hard with a Vengeance* delivers what it promises and doesn't leave the audience feeling they could have better invested their time and money.

# New X-Files novel chills, but won't blow you away

By Patricia Bow

*Whirlwind*, the latest of two X-Files novels by Charles Grant, blows effectively enough to raise a chill at times.

If you're willing to overlook some poor writing and editing, you may consider the \$5.99-plus-tax well spent.

The setting is New Mexico, near Albuquerque.

A particularly gruesome and violent death has overtaken three people, and the exact nature of the weapon is a key to the mystery.

Another key is the involvement of a fictional native tribe called the Konochine, whose isolated, irrigated, green valley under a looming mesa suggests the clichéd Shangri-la, complete with inscrutable elders guarding an ancient secret.

FBI agent Fox Mulder does not

begin to see the truth about what's happening until nearly four-fifths of the way through the book.

The reader, provided with an author's-eye-view of events denied to Mulder and his partner, Dana Scully, will probably get an inkling about a third of the way through the novel.

After that, the suspense lies in how Mulder and Scully handle the case, how close they come to being shredded, who the chief villain really is — predictably, he won't be the predictable person — and whether any of the more likable secondary characters are still alive at the end of the book.

Tighter writing would have improved the story.

The novel begins slowly — we don't see Mulder until Chapter 2, and then seven pages are devoted, confusingly, to an intriguing but

### book review



**Whirlwind**  
Author: Charles Grant

completely unrelated murder case. Some plot threads are poorly managed.

A character is introduced and then dropped, apparently without purpose.

A mystery motif is developed, only to be left annoyingly unexplained.

Such loose ends leave the impression that the author was plotting as he went along, and his first draft was his last.

Copy editing errors — a repeated paragraph, an obviously wrong detail — are not too frequent, but

when they occur their effect is to snap the reader out of the story.

Some details inserted to enliven the characters are just distracting.

We don't need to know, for instance, that a minor character scratched first his neck and then his ear while talking.

At about 60,000 words, the novel is too short for anything but the well-chilled meat of the story.

The space could have been used better by giving the readers more insight into the minds of the two agents.

The tidbits we do get, mostly from

glances into Mulder's mind, are rewarding but brief.

And it would have been nice to get to know Scully better.

So, why keep on reading to the end?

Scully and Mulder do stay in character, as those characters are portrayed in the TV series.

And occasionally a crisp line of repartee pops up from among the trivial and mundane.

Best of all, Grant's writing sharpens up in scenes of high tension.

When Mulder has his first brush with the unknown menace, a genuine chill grips the reader.

And the scene of peak danger moves at a whirlwind pace to a last-split-second climax.

Whether these strengths redeem the book's weaknesses, though, probably depends on how dedicated an X-Files fan you are.

# Hoop Dreams an inspiration to all

By Pete Smith

Many movie critics and fans were upset when the 1994 documentary *Hoop Dreams* was not nominated for best picture at this year's Academy Awards.

These same critics and fans were downright angry when it didn't even garner a nomination for best documentary of the year.

After seeing *Hoop Dreams*, which was released on video three weeks ago, I fully understand what all the controversy was about.

*Hoop Dreams* combines the inner-city realities of *Boyz 'n the Hood* with the basketball sense of *Blue Chips*.

The three-hour movie covers five years in the lives of two black Chicago teenagers, William Gates and Arthur Agee. Both boys dream of one day playing in the National Basketball Association (NBA), like their idols Isiah Thomas and Michael Jordan.

A Hollywood movie script could not have been written to be more dramatic, suspenseful and interesting than the real-life story of these two boys' lives.

In fact, most Hollywood scripts don't come close to capturing an audience's attention in the way that

*Hoop Dreams* does.

As the story unfolds, the boys meet and overcome, many obstacles on the road to the NBA. You will find yourself rooting for them from the beginning because the two boys are so charismatic.

Both William and Arthur are accepted at Chicago's Saint Joseph's, a mostly white, suburban high school, on the merits of their amazing basketball skills.

Like Isiah Thomas before them, (he also attended Saint Joseph's) the boys had to bus three hours from their homes in the ghetto every day to their suburban high school.

Although some of Saint Joseph's faculty denied it, the boys' careers at the school depended on their consistent performance on the court.

William was only working at a Grade 4 level when he was accepted there. One of his teachers told him, "You have to be one good ball player to get in this school with these grades."

The boys face problems at home and at school which would make it tempting for most people to give up their dream of playing in the NBA. But it's inspirational to watch the boys persist and never relinquish their dream.

True, three hours is a long movie to sit through, but it's well worth it.

It only seems like a documentary for the first half hour, but after that, director Steve James' talent takes over.

He uses so many movie techniques, like a soundtrack and varied camera angles, that after watching for a while, it seems more like a movie than a documentary. This can also be attributed to the fact the boys' stories are so interesting and unbelievable.

It is a real shame that *Hoop Dreams* didn't get a nomination at the Oscars.

Could it be because Spike Lee had a cameo role half way through the movie?

### video review



**Hoop Dreams**  
Director: Steve James





In the end, most agree the power of the mind is most important

# Many factors to lengthy pro careers

By Craig DiSero

Gordie Howe retired from hockey at age 51. Nolan Ryan was still pitching no-hitters at age 43. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won back-to-back basketball titles at 41. Robert Parish is still playing professional basketball at 41.

Supermen? Incredibly lucky? Or just dedicated?

It may be a combination of these factors and more.

But just how old is old in the sports world? It seems to depend on the sport. In an April 1991 Globe and Mail article, James Christie took a look at different sports. "A female gymnast can be past her prime at 17," he said, "but some marathon runners run their best races when they are near 40."

Generally speaking, in competitive sports, age and experience are an asset when victory depends more on strategy, aerobic endurance or special techniques or skills, Christie said. And sports that rely upon speed and explosive power — like gymnastics — are more the domain of the young.

But there are exceptions. It used to be that 25 was middle age for most athletes physiologically, says Sue Wilson, a sport psychologist at York University, in Toronto. At some point each person reaches a peak and begins to decline. "But if you don't have injuries, sometimes it's possible to maintain that peak for a long time, a lot longer than we

thought before," she said.

Athletes have the best knowledge in this area, says Dr. Michael Clarfield, who runs a sports-medicine clinic in Toronto. There is little research to draw from in this area, says Clarfield, and there don't appear to be plans to have any research done. "The reasons for some athletes' continued success are often as varied as their experiences. Each athlete has his or her theory as to why they have lasted so long."

However, Wilson says avoiding major injuries is a key to a longer career. Parish, while playing for the Boston Celtics, attributed his durability, at least in part, to avoiding major injuries. "At centre, if you can avoid a major injury, the older you get, the better you get," he said in a March 1991 Sports Illustrated article.

In a November 1993 Sports Illustrated opinion-piece, Parish's long-time teammate Kevin McHale said injuries were one of the factors that forced him to retire. His played 13 seasons before retiring, but said he could have played more.

But how do you avoid such injuries? Nolan Ryan believes it is more than just luck. In a July 1990 Globe and Mail article, Ryan said it is a combination of a lot of factors, among them genetics. "I probably haven't aged as quickly as other people," he said. "I think through proper mechanics and work ethics, I've stayed away from any career-threatening injury."

What about genes or upbringing? There are a lot of similarities in how Ryan and Howe are described by others. They endured. They have horse sense. They are steady, down to earth. And they worked hard to maintain their bodies.

In describing Howe for a January 1994 Sports Illustrated article, E. M. Swift said time does not erode strength. Howe, at 48, was still tremendously strong.

Bob Bailey, the physician who gave Howe the green light to return to hockey at 45, said in the same article, "It's a matter of conditioning. What I found really incredible was his pulse rate, which was around 48. A normal 50-year-old man might have one around 80."

Dave Steen, a B.C. native who held the Canadian shot put record for 12 years and won gold medals in both the 1966 and 1970 Commonwealth Games, says his conditioning was always important. "I had access to the best training techniques in the world, when they were first being used. I trained every day. Every day."

There isn't a great mystery to being successful, Steen says. "The secret to success is to put your jock strap on every day and run out the door. And keep doing it."

Ryan said he realized something similar early in his career, and that there wasn't any plan for him to pitch as long as he did. He studied everything he did and worked hard. In the previously mentioned Sports

Illustrated article, he said he was lifting weights well before any other players were. "I always wanted to keep in shape, especially after I turned 30. The older I got the more I worked out. I work out more than anyone on our team."

But this type of dedication can take its toll. Most swimmers are finished by the age of 20 or 25, claimed Christie. He quoted Nick Thierry, then Canada's chief swimming statistician: "Swimming is

in London, Ont., found that decreases in voluntary muscle strength are negligible until after the age of 60. This suggests the bulk of an extended career rests in the mind of the athlete. Steen says aging can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, learned from images of what it means to be old. "Immobilization is an expected part of aging, but it doesn't have to be," he says.

In the Sports Illustrated article,

**"Your age is an attitude and if you're in a sport where a lot of people refer to you as 'the old man' you may start thinking that way."**

— Andy Higgins

obsessed with training. You train all the time to perform in just one or two big meets a season." Years of regimented training can improve some, but they can create an emotional numbness in others, wrote Christie.

Steen says motivation is a key element in the length of an athlete's career. Particularly for shy people, sport is a vehicle of expression, he says. "You can fool yourself for a while that you mean something. Some athletes quickly get this feeling of invincibility, like they can go on forever." Those are the ones who usually end up with short careers, he says.

Athletes who are not so full of themselves, who give credit to others and have a better appreciation for what they have are the ones who last longer, says Steen. "It is a gift for them and they realize it."

## Talk of Ages

This article is one of a series by the winter-semester journalism students in J1A

In his Sports Illustrated opinion piece, McHale said the biggest reason he retired was a lack of motivation. "By the time I hung it up, I was good and ready," he said.

His only motivation for playing his final season was the joy his children got from going to practices and games with their father, or, he said, he would have quit even earlier. His last few seasons were difficult, he said, because they were filled with physical pain and the mental burden of playing on a mediocre team.

Apparently, not much changes in muscles, physically, if they are maintained, even over a long period of time.

In a 1992 study, presented in the Canadian Journal of Sports Science, Dr. Anthony Vandervoort of the University of Western Ontario,

Texas Rangers pitching coach Rick House was asked how long he thought Ryan would pitch. "As long as Nolan wants to pitch. As long as he wants to make the physical sacrifices to fight the aging process," he replied. Howe lived to play the game of hockey, said Ted Lindsay about his former teammate in the article in Sports Illustrated. And, how he thought also influenced how hard he worked. "Genuinely, sincerely, he felt he had to worry about his position," Lindsay said.

Your mind helps shape your attitude, said Christie. In his article, he quoted Andy Higgins, then a University of Toronto track coach. "There's got to be an element of the child and a sense of enjoyment left in an athlete for him to perform really well. Your age is an attitude and if you're in a sport where a lot of people refer to you as 'the old man' you may start thinking that way."

Legendary baseball pitcher Satchel Paige had six rules for staying young. Number 6 was "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." Parish never looked back in his career, only forward. "What's to look back for?" he asks.

The power of the player's mind is the most important factor in allowing these athletes to go on, says Steen, about those who seemingly defy time. He now cycles and runs with members of a masters club of athletes, which includes 80-year-old men who still cycle time trials.

Dr. Peter Jensen is a sports psychologist quoted in a September 1992 Toronto Sun article written by Joanne Richard. Jensen said it isn't enough to be physically able to perform at a high level; one must also be mentally fit. "The way you think will either energize you or drain your energy resources," he said.

Luck, dedication, and super-strength may have something to do with an athlete's lengthy success but it comes down to desire, Steen says.

Will there be athletes in the next century who play until their 40s or 50s, or is the desire gone? Steen says too often now, money is the prime motivator. "If they don't have to play past a certain age, I'm not sure they will."



Robert Parish shows that at 41, he can still play in the National Basketball Association. Parish left the Boston Celtics after 14 seasons to join the Charlotte Hornets. (Photo courtesy Charlotte Hornets)